S. D. McCurson / Masonic Temple

BUFFALO: WHY NOT GET READY IN TIME for that great trip NEXT JUNE?

The FREEMASON

* * * * * * * * AND THE FEZ.

A Masonic and Fraternal Monthly Magazine

VOLUME VI. DECEMBER, 1898. No. 12.

WANTED

We will publish a want ad for employment for any poor brother, not over forty words three months free. Other wants, fifteen words or over, 1 cent per word, each time; 6 months, 5 cents; 1 year, 9 cents.

WANTED—A good agent in every Masonic community to canvass for this Journal on good commissions. At our HALF RATE we offer good terms. Address, The FREE MASON AND THE FEZ, Marion, Iowa.

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SHRINE CARDS—We have a neat card with the Seal of El Kahir on it, which we print at 50 cents a hundred. Fancy cards, 75 cents for fifty or $1.5c per hundred All kinds of Job Printing at cash prices.—Jno. W. Geiger, Drawer E, Marion, Iowa.

A SOLID TRAIN FOR BUFFALO:
That's what. The Imperial Council N. M. S. for North America meets there June 14, 1899. Write Jno. W. Geiger, Recorder El Kahir Temple, Marion, Iowa.

Address No. 257 Long Street.

A New, Bright and Sparkling Burlesque Play, entitled:
"The Royal Order of the Ogling Owls"
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Perpetrated Especially for Society Presentation.
There's a Hypnotist in it!
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HOME OFFICE, DES MOINES IOWA.

Incorporated Under Iowa Laws.

Members of Division "A" are entitled to

$5,000 in case of accidental death.
$25 per week for total disability (52 weeks.)
Also benefits for loss of sight of one or both eyes, or loss of one or both hands or feet, and costs
Only $12 a year, payable $3 quarterly.

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$5,000 in case of Accidental Death.
$25 per week for total disability (200 weeks.)
$5 per week for Partial Disability (26 weeks.)
Also benefits for loss of sight of one or both eyes, or loss of one or both hands or feet, and costs
Only $16 a year, payable $4 quarterly.

For further information, address the Home Office.

J. A. DOVERMAN, Sec'y,
Masonic Temple, Des Moines, Iowa.

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Put Me Off AT-- BUFFALO!

You may have heard that old song and "aber nit," but its nothing to the

Music Accompanying

the rush of the wild Bedouin tribes of the American Desert for the

Eriegating Waters

of that throwing off place over in the State of New York.

-- WHOE'S A GOING --

is not so much a question as who isn't.

A SOLID TRAIN carrying the allied Nobility of Iowa, with their daughters of Isis

Will Run from Iowa to Buffalo,

Leaving about JUNE 11th, 1899,
for a week's trip.

Low Fare. **High Time.**

Watch this page for monthly changes of announcement

JNO W. GEIGER, Recorder El-Kahir,
MARION, IOWA.

SAY:= Don't we want a live Masonic Journal in Iowa? If so, help us, by sending us all the HALF RATE subscriptions you can

The FREEMASON AND THE FEZ.

In the Interests of Freemasonry, the Concordant Orders of Iowa, and Fraternity Genrally.

VOLUME VI. CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, DECEMBER, 1898. NUMBER 12

BRO. PRICE ON LINEISM.

One of the most pungent of Masonic writers is Bun F. Price, editor of the Fraternal department of the "Commercial Appeal," of Tennessee; and one of the fairest among us, too. When he speaks thoughtful men attend. We note his utterances on the "Promotion Theory" and wish to draw attention to one paragraph of vital importance to all Masonic and co-ordinate bodies:

"There is nothing at the present time that is so disastrous to the Fraternity and gradually sapping the life-blood of Masonry, as advancement by "line of promotion."

His application of the comparisons to subordinate bodies is accompanied by the following in regard to the Grand bodies:

"The same line of thought leads us to remark that Grand Lodges are, in a great measure, responsible for this state of things. It is their custom, generally, to elect some one from some particular part of the state, according to geographical lines, and advance him regularly until he is elected grand master, and it is not considered exactly the handsome thing to presume to run any one against the "liner." By this process we have seen the dignitary of the grand east degraded, and the intellect that should reign supreme in such positions cast aside. Let the reformation, therefore, begin at the fountain head, wipe out all geographical lines, and the "promotion theory," and let absolute merit be the test of office.

"There is another evil also that needs correcting, soliciting appointment for your friend or relative. Scarcely is the announcement made that "Bro. Next-in-Line has been elected" before his close friends make a rush for him and almost pull his ears off in their endeavor to "speak a good word" for Bro. Ambition Johnny With a Pull at Home, Wise Acre, Smart Aleck, first appearance, and Old Bro. Hayseed, "who has been comin' to this 'ere grand lodge for nigh onter thirty years, and never got a job yet." Until the appointments are announced, after the election, life is a burden to the grand master elect, and in the wind-up he is bound to make somebody mad because he didn't have places enough to go 'round. This state of electioneering has found its way into our subordinate lodges also. Newly elected masters are importuned to start brother so-and-so "in line" just as soon as their election is announced, and the influence of the wardens are solicited also in behalf of their favorites. It may be that their brothers who are being urged for appointment have never seen but one election in the lodge and are totally ignorant of the duties of the office for which they are being coached, but once in "line" seems to be all that is necessary, as they will have time enough to qualify for the "East" before they get there. Oh, what a fallacy.

"We tell you, brothers, this "line of promotion theory" must be abandoned, and the quicker it is done the better it will be for Masonry. Merit will then have a chance."

LET MASONRY MARK–WELL.

The last few weeks have witnessed another so-called relaxation of a great religious body toward the Fraternities—with emphasis on Freemasonry. Without the remotest desire to lessen the real or imaginary powers of these "decree" issuing organizations, we wish to call Masonic attention to the fact, that while "bulls" and "resolutions" have rambled through the lonesome arches of cathedrals vast, it has been a "horse on" the religious bull-makers that *Masonry never recedes*. While "Jew basters" and heretic hunters for the glory of religion go after each other for blood and immortality, the ancient and honorable institution "feeds the hungry, clothes the naked, leads the blind by a way they know not, makes crooked things straight—these things they do and do not forsake them."

The promised historical articles announced last month will have to come later, as we failed to get the first entirely ready. Next month.

The catalogue of opportunity is far from exhausted, in which is contained the ways of making the smallest body full of life and interest. A little energy and a big lot of sociability goes far towards success.

OUR BIRTHDAY.

Monday was J. W. Geiger's birthday and the following gentlemen were invited to spend the evening with him: Messrs. P. M. Plumb, E. I. Alderman, Hiram Robinson, L. M. Lillis, O. M. Boyles, J. B. Smalley, J. N. North, Chas. Berry, J. T. Christie and F. H. Hilliard. Elegant refreshments were served in four courses and as a souvenir of the occasion Mr. Geiger was presented with a beautiful mahogany rocker. —*C. R. Republican Nov. 9, '98.*

We had an invitation for the "Past Master's Night" of Garden City Lodge, Chicago, Nov. 22d last. Thanks to Gil W. Barnard.

The movement for an Anglo-Saxon alliance was mainly due to the Masonic Order in the United States, England and Canada. —*Indian Mason.*

We'd like a few of the particulars, brothers of the I. M., before we can catch on to the above statement.

Le Mars reports things on the move—petitions in the Chapter and Commandery.

In 1899 the Masons of the United States will celebrate the centennial anniversary of the death of George Washington. The ceremonies will be held at Alexandria and Mount Vernon, and will be under direction of the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

In 1816, DeWitt Clinton, then governor of New York, helped to organize the Grand Encampment of the United States, and was the first grand Master of that body.

The Kansas Freemason says: "Visitation is by courtesy. Any member of the lodge can object to a Mason seeking to visit his lodge." True, he can, but when he does so he brands himself less a gentleman than the visitor.

THE LODGES.

The corner stone of the new Observatory building in Winfield, Kan., was laid with Masonic ceremonies by Winfield Lodge, No. 58, on Nov. 3d, 1898.

The Masonic bodies of Algona are showing decided evidences of prosperity. Bro. Jas. W. Hay has moved to Mobile, Ala.

At Lake Mills the Lodge under the mastership of Bro. O. C. Johnson is alive and doing well.

Relief Lodge, Riceville, has three candidates on the way and has prospects of more to follow.

The Kansas City, Mo., Lodges gave Grand Master Ethelbert F. Allen a complimentary reception Nov. 25th. He's "worthy and well qualified" to fill any position to which he is called.

We have received a neat and tasty Masonic Directory of Kearney, Nebraska. We imagine Brother "Bob" French sent it. Thanks.

This journal respectfully informs the Railway News Bureau that we would gladly give large space to many excellent items they send out, were it possible.

Trojan Lodge 548, Marion, shows its usual vigor and progress. Mr. John Thompson, son of Hon. Judge Thompson, one of the oldest members of Marion Lodge No. 6, was initiated at their October communication.

It appears that all Masonry in Porto Rico previous to the war was of Scottish Rite jurisdiction. Here will be an open door for the symbolic degrees.

And now Kentucky declares "stuff's off" with Washington for their action in allowing the negro to flock by himself. North Carolina please report.

WHERE'S THE PAN?

We've been clipping items from "Boston Ideas," "Kansas Freemason" and etcetera about that Pan American Exposition to be held at Niagara Falls, May, 1899, and a Great Masonic Congress in connection therewith. Hurry up and tell us, some one, and we'll stop over on our way to Buffalo!

OELWEIN

Our business engagements have called us to this growing Iowa city several times. The tide of expectation has ebbed and flowed more than twice since we first heard of its "corner lot" sales. The cadaverous foundations of the big C. G. W. shops looked unpromising in the echoing groans of disappointment. Now all is changed. The shops are almost under roof. The population, of a high average, is adding to daily, and within two years will more than double. This is no paid for item. Masonry will feel this quickened pulsation. Our brothers want to profit by it for the "good of Masonry in general," and they will in Oelwein particularly. Many sojourning Masons will come, will be made welcome, will seek the altar of the institution and will find it there. The Oelwein brothers are alive, and we know no place where the prospects are any better. We rejoice in their prosperity. So mote it be.

DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

At West Union, Jan. 2 to 9, 1899, Lodges 66, 69, 70, 72, 90, 130, 135, 144, 150, 154, 160, 172, 181, 202, 204, 214, 237, 248, 274, 279, 316, 333, 351, 374, 395, 510, 518, 542.

DISTRICT NO. 8.

At Dubuque, Jan. 9 to 14, 1899, Lodges 3, 49, 51, 67, 125, 127, 132, 147, 165, 173, 187, 225, 286, 298, 551.

DISTRICT NO. 12.

At Des Moines, Jan. 23 to 28, 1899, Lodges 22, 43, 53, 59, 79, 80, 83, 110, 115, 121, 123, 128, 158, 159, 190, 194, 218, 233, 249, 256, 258, 280, 283, 293, 299, 303, 304, 308, 313, 315, 339, 356, 357, 363, 368, 370. 389, 407, 409, 411, 448, 452, 454, 465, 473, 509, 529.

DISTRICT NO. 20.

At Creston, Jan. 30 to Feb. 4, 1899, Lodges 138, 151, 156, 179, 215, 275, 320, 343, 348, 354, 386, 396, 403, 458, 459, 484, 515, 552, 539, 555.

MASONIC TEMPLE AT WATERLOO.

CORNER STONE LAID YESTERDAY WITH APPROPRIATE CEREMONIES.

WATERLOO, Nov. 11.—Special: The corner stone of the new Masonic Temple was laid here to-day with appropriate ceremonies. Grand Master Hon. Matt Parrott opened the exercises by calling upon Grand Chaplain Rev. E. Skinner to invoke the blessing of Divine Providence on the undertaking. Grand Secretary Whittaker then read the list of articles to be deposited in the corner stone.

After the reading of the list Grand Treasurer P. J. Martin descended from the platform and placed the precious box quietly in the niche prepared for it, and workmen solemnly lowered the great stone to its place, and the further beautiful ceremony of pouring blessings on the corner stone with corn, oil and wine was performed.

The oration was delivered by Hon. Chas. E. Pickett. It was almost an impromptu address. But his words were highly appreciated and complimented by his auditors. —*Republican.*

THE ROYAL ARCH.

While at Esthervile recently we were informed that the new Chapter there is thriving finely. They have work ahead and predict "valuable discoveries."

The Grand Chapter of New Mexico was instituted Oct. 3, 1898.

We are long on white space this month because there is nothing in hand. See?

Occidental Chapter, 114, Le Mars, elected the following officers Nov. 11:

H. P.—J. D. Loudi.
K.—A. Simpkins.
S.—Dr. Hammond.
C. H.—Ed. Townsend.
R. S.—E. A. Dalton.
R. A. C.—Lawrence Clos.
3d V.—Verosa Smith.
2d V.—O. G. Berner.
1st V.—E.C. Pfaffle.
G.—D. Radmore.

COMMANDERIES.

MASON CITY.

It was our good fortune to happen into a conclave of our once home Commandery at Mason City. Nearly fifty Sir Knights *in uniform* were present. Five petitioners were elected to Orders, and this is a common occurrence here. E. Sir C. H. McNider has proven a most efficient and popular Commander. It being their election night (Nov. 17), they selected the following officers for the ensuing year:

E. C.—C. H. McNider (fifth term).
Gen.—W. J. Stewart.
C. G.—S. M. Hoyt.
Prelate—W. E. Randall.
S. W.—E. F. White.
J. W.—G. R. Smith.
Treasurer—C. H. Randall.
Recorder—L. R. Bailey.

The Order of the Temple was conferred upon Hugh Hurst Shepard. The eminent Commander and his officers deserve every compliment for the able manner in which the work was rendered.

Patmos Commandery No. 27, Marion, elected the following officers for 1899:

E. C.—F. H. Hilliard.
Gen.—E. I. Alderman.
C. G.—C. S. Berry.
Prelate—A. B. Dumont.
Treasurer—C. H. Kurtz.
Recorder—W. B. Wells.
S. W.—H. Robinson.
J. W.—Jacob Kocher.

Apollo Commandery 26 of this city elected the following officers for 1899:

E. C.—George B. Holmes.
Gen.—George Johnson.
C. G.—R. T. Forbes.
Prelate—William Flanagan.
S. W.—J. T. Carmody.
J. W.—J. W. Hayes.
Treasurer—James B. Bever.
Recorder—C. H. French.
Trustee—J. T. Hamilton.

The item going the rounds of the dailies in regard to the repairs on Templar Park are as follows:

"The Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, is making extensive improvements in their property at Templar Point, Spirit Lake. The storm that did so much damage in that part of the state moved the main building from its foundations and made repairs necessary. The Grand Commandery will spend about $4,000 on the work. The building will be remodeled to a great extent. There will be a glass front in the dining room facing the lake and porches everywhere, giving to the structure a fine appearance, and making it a more enjoyable place for an outing than it has been, and it has always been the finest point in the state. The apartment buildings will be improved to some extent and connected with the main building by porches."

ATTENTION, SIR KNIGHTS.

By a law regarding Knight Templar membership in Lodge and Chapter the Grand Encampment of the United States, at its last conclave at Pittsburg, Pa., passed the following law, which says:

"Hereafter voluntary non-affiiliation in Lodge or Chapter for six months shall deprive a Templar of his membership in the Commandery."—*Trestle Board.*

Sir Knight Phil Schaller reports that their Commandery at Sac City is moving forward in its usual active manner. He promises fifty visitors at Templar Park next summer.

Plymouth Commandery, LeMars, elected the following officers Nov. 9:

E. C.—Thos. Adamson.
Gen.—F. A. Post.
C. G.—Chas. Adamson.
Prelate—Geo. E. Ward.
S. W.—E. P. Dalton.
J. W.—E. L. Townsend.
Treasurer—W. G. Bolser.
Recorder—Jos. Long.
St. B.—Verona Smith.
Sd. B.—J. D. Loudi.
W.—L. T. Cumberbatch.
G.—D. P. Admore.

The Conclave at Boston is credited with having 19,096 swords, 136 bands of 3566 pieces. Admitting such was true, the contrast with the Conclave at Pittsburg, where 8645 swords, 73 bands, and 1978 musicians were in line, does not promise well for the next Conclave at Louisville. At the same rate of decrease, about 3500 only need be arranged for.—*Constellation.*

Bro. Rickart will change his average in three years, or we miss our guess.

In the Triennial Parade at Pittsburg, R. E. Geo. W. Bever, Grand Commander of Iowa, marched at the head of his men. Our George is that sort.

The Grand Encampment amended Sec. 4, Title XXX, Templar Law, to read:

"The petition of a rejected candidate cannot be acted upon by another Commandery at any time within three years after such rejection; nor, unless the petitioner has resided in the jurisdiction of the Commandery for three years, without the consent, by unanimous ballot, of the one by which he was rejected."

A St. Louis Commandery details 36 Knights for funeral duty, who must appear in full uniform on notice, or send a substitute. Iowa Commanderies please copy.

THE EASTERN STAR.

THE GRAND CHAPTER.

The Grand Chapter of Iowa, O. E. S., has become one of the larger Masonic assemblies of the year, and the coming of the "Sisters and Brothers" is an event second only to the communications of the Grand Lodge itself, and in interest is equal to it.

As early as Monday evening, October 24, the hotels began to show the presence of officers and committees, ready for the preliminary work. A rehearsal of the Grand Officers was held in the crypt of Grace church.

Tuesday forenoon was given up to committee work and the afternoon used to exemplify the work by the Grand Officers. In the evening, at the Temple, Cedar Chapter served refreshments and Marion Chapter rendered the beautiful allegory of the "Pilgrims," and all who witnessed it will unite with us in saying that it was beautifully shown and perfectly exemplified throughout. We were proud of the home Chapters, and especially since we knew how short a time they had to get it ready for this occasion. They had the assistance of a drill master only at four rehearsals, and that they deserve credit no one will deny.

Wednesday morning at ten the Grand Chapter assembled in the crypt (and there are worse places in which we have met) of Grace P. E. church, the parish church of Rt. Rev. Thomas E. Green.

Alderman G. T. Hedges, as acting mayor, delivered an address of welcome, though what part the municipal authorities have in the comings and goings of a fraternal body with which they are not connected is a query. The fraternal address was delivered, and well delivered, too, by the Worthy Matron of Cedar Chapter, Mrs. M. A. Evans, and the response by Mrs. Kate C. Brechner of Waterloo.

In the absence of the Grand Marshal, Mrs. Nettie Hilliard of Marion was appointed.

The addresses were read. The growth of the Order in the state has been considerable. The entire Order at large now has 161,196. One of the National Grand Officers is an Iowa woman (Mrs. H. A. Ercanbrack of Anamosa), now in her fourth triennial term. The Grand Matron's address was listened to with attention, and in the main the number of those who stayed it out were creditable to the courtesy of this body of female Masons.

At 2 p. m. a Chapter of Sorrow was held in memory of the dead. This was a most impressive and solemn occasion and may well continue to be a part of the annual work of the Grand (and why not also of the Subordinate?) Chapters. Mrs. Leah Helm, G. C., delivered the memorial address; P. G. M., Jennie Rule of Mason City, delivered the address to the memory of Past Grand Patron E. B. Dyke. Mrs. Hilliard of Marion rendered two beautiful solos. After the close of the Chapter of Sorrow routine business was resumed.

From the report of the Committee on Appeals and Grievances came the action that reversed the case of Electa Chapter vs. Sister Miller, and same remanded for retrial.

The Grand Secretary reported seventy-four deaths during the past year.

193 Chapters, 15 U. D., total 208. Membership, 10,980.

The Grand Treasurer's report showed an income of $5,622.69, less the expenditures to the time of reporting, $1,546.08.

Once more, the Past Grand Officers passed in review and were presented "in due and ancient form" by the Grand Matron.

The Memorial address in full by Mrs. Rule was ordered printed (application should be made to the Grand Secretary). Wednesday evening, Cedar Chapter exemplified the work in a creditable manner.

Thursday the work was resumed. Mrs. Lucy Railsback, P. G. M., of Montana, was a visitor.

In the report of the Committee on A. & G., the New Hartford case was at first acted upon with penal results to the Matron and her associate, but later a modest but earnest confession of ignorant transgression brought out the true Masonic ring of pardon for both. The effort to lay out the Past Matrons and Patrons by amendment was laid out too dead to skin. "So may it ever be" laid out in every instance when it comes up. We want all who wish to come to be with us, and no effort to narrow the line of the present constituency will succeed. Let it alone. "Duty" stays where an effort was made to interpolate "privilege." We wish a recodification could be had (it is to come) then all needless tinkering would be discontinued.

A Digest of the laws and decisions goes over to next year. This should be the work of a special committee and not of the Committee on Jurisprudence, for obvious reasons.

The Grand Chapter announced its loyalty to the General Grand Chapter in all matters of life and practice, which it has usually been, except in the matter of a few points in the Ritual.

The voting force of the body was found to be 686. Next year the Statistics are to be omitted from the addresses, (that is, printed but not read). The Memorial Ceremonies are to take an evening instead of an afternoon.

Resolutions of sympathy for Dr. Parvin, Grand Secretary of Iowa A. F. & A. M., who is reported quite ill; to the Gazette for its able report; and the "picture gallery" for the "lifers" given during the session. To the entertaining Chapters (for Marion helped sure as you live), and to most everybody but the poor down-trodden hotel men who, no doubt, will suffer enough torment to wish our meeting in some "warmer clime."

The official list was given last month, so is not repeated here.

Davenport was selected as the place of the next meeting.

So closed the 21st annual session, with its memories and its cares. Much that's delightful transpires each year, much that an observer notes escapes the eye of some who think they know. Some things will right themselves, some will not.

"Bring the young girls into the order of the Eastern Star," says the Texas Freemason. Why not add, or to the club or some other institution, to wean them away from home, where they will be deprived of the elevating and refined influence thereof. What about the young boys?

Here is the way Grand Master Strother of Nevada, prepares to have the "Stars go down" on him: "The Star seems to be a new departure, or a new side show that claims to be more Masonry than Masonry itself." He'll learn better!

Up to the date of sending in "copy" (Nov. 25th later), no information of the election in the Chapters have reached us. We aim to give the news and we'd like to have it fresh. The following lone exception was clipped from the "daily papers:"

Cedar Chapter, No. 184, elected the following officers for 1899:

W. M., Mrs. A. W. McKinnon; W. P., G. S. Pettit; Associate Matron, Mrs. C. Morcombe; Secretary, A. H. Gough; Treasurer, Mrs. Thos. Farmer; Conductress, Mrs. N. D. Tower; Assistant Conductress, Miss Belle Gairns.

THE FREEMASON AND THE FEZ.

Published Monthly

In the interest of Freemasonry in Iowa, and Fraternity generally.

JOHN WESTLEY GEIGER, K. T., 32°, EDITOR.
P. O. Drawer E, Marion, Iowa, for all business and exchanges.

Entered in the postoffice at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as second-class mail matter.

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DATE FOR COPY:—To insure notice in the current Number, all copy must reach the Editor by the 1st of the month at latest. Postal card notices of current news from all bodies are desired.

HOW TO REMIT:—Send all remittances by some safe method; receipts will be forwarded by return mail.

Address all correspondence to
JOHN WESTLEY GEIGER, Editor.
Drawer E, Marion, Iowa.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, DECEMBER, 1898

GRAND GATHERINGS.

GRAND LODGES MEET.

Iowa, Mason City, June 6, 1899.

CROM BOWEN.....Des Moines.....GRAND MASTER
T. S. Parvin.....Cedar Rapids.....Grand Secretary

CONVOCATIONS, R. A. M.

Iowa, Grand, Red Oak, October 19th, 1899.
W. F. CLEVELAND...Harlan....GRAND HIGH PRIEST
Alf. Wingate.....Des Moines.....Grand Secretary

CONCLAVES K. T.

Grand Encampment, Louisville, Ky., Aug. 19, 1899.
Iowa Grand, Templar Park, July 14, 1899.
G. W. BEVER.....Cedar Rapids..GRAND COMMANDER
Alf. Wingate.....Des Moines.....Grand Recorder

GRAND CHAPTERS O. E. S.

General Grand (U. S.,) 1901.
Iowa, Oct. 26, 1898, Cedar Rapids.
MRS. M. B. RATHBUN..Clinton.....GRAND MATRON
W. H. Norris.....Manchester.....Grand Patron
Mrs. Maria Jackson...Council Bluffs.....Grand Recorder

THE MYSTIC SHRINE.

Imperial Council, Buffalo, N. Y., June 4, 1899.
ETHELBERT F. ALLEN..Kansas City..IMP. POTENTATE
Ben. W. Rowell.....Boston, Mass.....Recorder

El-Kahir Temple, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
E. I. ALDERMAN.....Marion..... POTENTATE
John Westley Geiger.....Marion..... .....Recorder

Kaaba Temple, Davenport, Iowa.
GEO. F. WHITE.....Davenport.....POTENTATE
C. J. Brown.....Davenport.....Recorder

Tangier Temple, Omaha, Nebraska.
H. HARDY.....Omaha.....POTENTATE
S. R. Crickmore.....Box 523, Omaha.....Recorder

THE SCOTTISH RITE.

The Cerneau schismatic body, claiming to have jurisdiction over the whole "United States, their Territories and dependencies," have for assets, *nil*, their funds being invested securely in the pockets of its propagators, Barker, Frambes & Co.—*Trestle Board.*

Frederick the Great, who instituted the 33d degree, was the actual head of the Scottish Rite of the world (?).

The bodies of the Rite will hold a reunion in Des Moines in February.

The Valley of Chicago resounded with activity in a special reunion of the Rite Nov. 15–17. A beautiful memorial ballustre accompanied their notice.

Palmoni Council P. J., 16° held their usual meeting Nov. 11—Valley of Buffalo, N. Y. Buffalo Chapter R. C. assembled Nov. 18th.

The bodies of the Rite had a successful Reunion in October at Clinton.

Buffalo Consistory, N. Y., held a regular Convention Nov. 25. They are active over in the Empire State.

El Kahir institutes the Daughters of Isis at Cedar Rapids, Dec. 21, and a high time is looked for.

The number of Pilgrimages is on the increase as the war talk dies down, and the desire for the honors of the Order rise up.

The notices of meetings among the Temples were numerous and variegated the past month.

The petition of the Dubuque Nobles for a recommendation to the Imperial Council for a Temple in that city was not granted.

El Kahir goes to Mason City Jan. 18th and to Des Moines Feb. 23d, 1899. Other places negotiating. Let the merry war go on.

GEORGE WOLTZ BEVER,
GRAND COMMANDER KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF IOWA.

THE MYSTIC SHRINE.

Kaaba Temple held one of its most successful meetings at Burlington on Oct. 27th.

El Kahir had a successful meeting at Carroll, Nov. 3, with a good class of candidates.

The Institution of the Daughters of Isis at Cedar Rapids, Dec. 21, will be a feature of El Kahir's annual.

Nov. 3 was a "red letter" day for El Kahir Temple. A pilgrimage was made to Carroll, where a fine class was created. Among the notables present were Henry Hardy, Potentate of Tangier, P. M. Rose, J. B. Rahm, C. H. Mullin, W. J. Colrur, C. C. Stanley, Floyd J. Campbell and Theo. Livingstone of the same Temple, and E. Browne of El Riad. Of course, there were numerous Kaaba's, but they are always at home when with El Kahir.

THE COUNCIL.

The Royal and Select Masters' degrees were first conferred in this country by Stephen Morin, in Albany, N. Y., in 1766, as side degrees in the blue lodge, and the first permanently organized body of these degrees was Columbia Council No. 1, New York City, September 2, 1810.—*Texas Freemason.*

FRATERNITIES.

The editor of this journal is looking for information which will be used for the common good in this department Address, Drawer E, Marion Iowa.

One of the newest of the F. B. O's is the "Bankers' Union of the World." Headquarters, Des Moines, Ia. Supreme Pres., E. C. Spinney; Supreme Sec'y, C. H. Robinson; Directors, L. D. Rood, J. H. Snoke, J. D. Flynn. Other Incorporators, J. K. Macomber, W. J. Stewart and Geo. A. Jewett. Gives all the benefits promised lately.

We wonder why there should be any confusion among the deputies who profess to present statistics, as to the truth, but there is, and the liar should be scored by all honorable Fraternity men everywhere.

Were we giving advice, we should suggest that a stingy, changeable administration brings many new faces, but a short, unsatisfactory deputy service.

Rinaldo L. Tilton, G. M. W., A. O. U. W. of Iowa, by the personal request of Bro. Fred Fenner of Ottumwa, delivered his funeral address recently. A request made five years ago and religiously kept by the family.

It develops that the Endowment Rank K. P. was *not* mismanaged and that their securities are *not* badly invested. Every sensible Pythian will be glad.

With Jan. 1, 1899, the Degree of Honor (A. O. U. W.) certificates in Iowa are guaranteed by the Superior Lodge in full.

INSURANCE EXEMPTION.

Washington, Aug. 5.—The commissioner of internal revenue has rendered a decision on the liability of co-operative and mutual insurance companies to tax under the war revenue act. After quoting that part of the act applicable to the case, the commissioner says that it is clear from the language used that the exemptions mentioned are meant not to apply to life insurance companies, organized and conducted on the mutual plan, unless such associations are "fraternal," "beneficiary" or "purely local" in their character.

In the case of the particular company under consideration, it is stated that it is purely co-operative or mutual, issues no stock and has no stockholders, and all of the profits or surplus assets go to its members in the way of dividends, reductions of premiums or additions to policies in case of death. In this connection the commissioner in his letter says:

"The term fraternal or beneficiary, as used in connection with life insurance companies, would seem to have no application to the company you represent, and admitting it to be a purely co-operative association, as claimed, its business, it appears, is not confined to any particular locality, nor conducted exclusively for the benefit of its members without profit. Upon examination of the form of policy submitted by you, I also find that the premiums charged are at certain fixed rates and payable at stipulated times, as in the case of ordinary life insurance, and not according to the assessment plan usually adopted by co-operative insurance companies. From the examination I am clearly of the opinion that the policies issued by your company do not come within the exemption referred to."

OUR DEAD.

We will consider it a favor if our readers will send us the names and date of deaths among the Masonic Family.—Editor.

Geo. W. Starr, Potentate of Boumi Temple, Baltimore, Md., Oct. 8, 1898.

Geo. A. Quimby, of Des Moines, Nov. 21, 1898. Died in Chicago of heart failure. This sad announcement startled a large circle of Noble Q's warm friends.

Wm. G. Paxton, Gr. Tr., Mississippi, Oct. 26, 1898.

DeWitt C. Geiger, Chicago, Nov. 9, 1898.

BOOK TABLE.

We have received the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Illinois for 1898 from the hands of W. Bro. J. H. C. Dill. Thanks.

From Rt. Ill. Comp. E. R. Hare, Grand Recorder, the Proceedings of the Grand Council of Washington.

From far New Zealand comes the modest unbound pamphlet Minutes of their Grand Lodge, from the Grand Secretary.

From Grand Recorder Mayo comes the Address of the Grand Master (K. T.) at Pittsburg and the Reports of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder.

From R. E. Comp. Alf Wingate, Grand Secretary, the Minutes of the Grand Chapter of Iowa R. A. M. for 1898. It will be of personal and general interest.

The Colorado Redman, Denver, Colo., comes to our table a welcome exchange.

The Degree of Honor Review now becomes the official organ of that body among the A. O. U. W.

We have the Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Washington for 1898 by courtesy of R. E. Sir Yancy C. Blalock, Grand Recorder, Walla Walla.

A GREAT LIVE STOCK JOURNAL

THE PRAIRIE FARMER—a weekly Agricultural and Live Stock Journal—one dollar a year. It is admittedly the leader of the agricultural and live stock papers of the United States. It covers the entire field of agriculture, dairying, live stock breeding and live stock feeding. It is edited for western farmers and stockmen who carry on diversified work; in fact *it is the farmer's newspaper*. The regular subscription price is one dollar a year; but in order that every one of our readers may get it next year, we will send it a full year with our own paper for only $1.25. This low price may be withdrawn anytime; we request our readers to act promptly. Hand in your order or send it to us.

JNO. W. GEIGER, Editor & Mgr.,
tf Marion, Iowa.

The Grand Lodge of Kansas pays its Grand Master a salary of $600. Missouri allows the Grand Master $250 for incidental expenses, and Tennessee allows $200 for the same purpose.

MOTHER LOVE.

I call to mind a beautiful engraving which illustrates this fidelity in a most touching manner. The artist presents to our view a solitary grave covered with a stone, and at the foot of the grave we see a magnificent greyhound, couched low, with drooping head guarding the last resting-place of its master, and with wistful eyes waiting for the well-known voice to address, the beloved hands to caress it once more. Defying hunger and thirst, deaf to the coaxing entreaties of friends or the threats of strangers, it lies there till worn-out nature gives up the struggle, and it follows its master—true and faithful unto death. All that the world knows of the fidelity of the friends and relatives of the deceased is expressed in that tombstone, which may, after all, have been nothing more but a cold formality. It rests with God to see into the hearts of the survivors and to judge how faithful they remain to the memory of him who passed into that "undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveler returns." What a lesson for man to draw from this fidelity of a dog. We call to mind another instance of actual occurrence. A stork had built its nest on the roof of the town hall in Delft, a city in the Netherlands. It had been hatched on that very roof, as its parent-storks had been hatched there before from generation to generation, thus showing an attachment to place and locality rarely excelled among men. Having faithfully hatched its brood it went on foraging expeditions in the neighboring meadows and waters to provide sustenance for its young. One day a fire broke out in the city, spreading to the town hall. The stork, returning from the meadows, finds only fiery flames and a sea of smoke. In helpless anxiety, circling high above smoke and flames, it tries to locate the nest, clapping its wings as if to ask for human aid. But human aid is out of the question, and human art and science are powerless to quench the uncontrollable element. At last, reckless of danger, the poor mother-bird, forcing its way through sparks and smoke, alights on the nest, spreads its wings protectingly over its young, and dies with those for whom it lived. Truly a striking illustration of faithfulness, of motherly love, which—though dying—makes itself immortal!—*Memphis Herald.*

THE SERIOUSNESS OF FREEMASONRY.

To witness the passing to the Chair by dispensation in some Lodges or the passage of the living arch in some Chapters, would give the impression that those engaged in the ceremonies were bent on extracting the most in the shortest space of time.

Remonstrance or condemnation is met by quoting that trite old rhyme:

> "A little nonsense, now and then,
> Is relished by the best of men."

Bear in mind, however, that it is only a "little" nonsense, and that only "now and then."

Whoever wrote the couplet recognized two things; that the best men are not frivolous, and that occasional nonsense is relished by them. Pure nonsense is usually harmless and may be mirth-provoking. Carroll's book of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and Gilbert's delightful nonsense rhymes are instances. But there is a wide gap between these and sim ple buffoonery.

That Freemasonry exists to-day practically unchanged since its first introduction to man, in that remote past whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, is due to the fact that it is a serious, purposeful institution.

From the moment the novice takes the step of an Entered Apprentice Mason, he becomes conscious of a deep undertone of solemnity, a mystic yet cognizable design that at once dispels all tendency toward frivolity. His very mode of preparation for the degrees robs him of all extraneous dependency. He has neither offensive nor defensive resources. Upon his ear falls the cadence of Divine supplication and he starts upon that quest from which death alone can release him.

But as nature has her moods and strongly marked contrasts so human life is not all monotony. We look upon the face of nature and behold! her streams are frozen and still; snow lies thick and white on her fields, her trees stretch bare limbs to the wintry blasts; but a mysterious change takes place; the ice melts, the snow disappears, but before it has quite gone the crocus pushes up its yellow cup, the brown buds swell on bush and twig and soon a tiny spear of green pierces through to the light. The birds return from the South, and jocund spring laughs in all the glee of lusty growth.

And these re curring seasons! What do they teach? The cycle of life. The merciful, masterful intent of the Creator. Naissance, birth, growth, maturity, decline and death. But death is not the end. It is but the beginning of a new cycle.

Entered, passed, raised, marked, received, exalted. The white stone and the new name are but sequences. Plant the seed and gather the harvest. But the seed may be of wheat or it may be of tares. Be careful what you plant. As we plant so shall we reap. As our lives are lived so are our records made. We may live with a lofty purpose, or we may follow the teachings of that Greek philosopher who assumed pleasure to be the highest good. Neither Epicurus nor Zeno, but rather Him who taught, "Do unto others as ye would that they should do to you," should be the model of our lives.

To walk uprightly, live consistently, help the poor, comfort the afflicted and forgive the erring, deeming it no trouble to go out of your way to serve your fellow-creatures, much less your Brethren in Freemasonry, to remember them in your devotions, preserve their secrets and warn them of danger, are some of the duties devolving on Freemasons.—*Keystone.*

An inveterate tobacco chewer forgot to remove his quid on his first introduction into the lodge room, and when asked, what he most desired? promptly answered, "A spittoon, if you please."

A new order, The Amaranth, is being instituted in various sections of the country. The Amaranth is a continuation of the Eastern Star, and is said to be very beautiful in its ritual and paraphernalia.

The Grand Lodge of Illinois decided that it was unwise to adopt any form or system of life membership.

The fund of the Massachasetts Masonic education and charity trust now amounts to about $150,000.

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JNO. W. GEIGER, Editor and Mgr., Marion, Iowa.

"The Kids" Imperial Romp,

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1899

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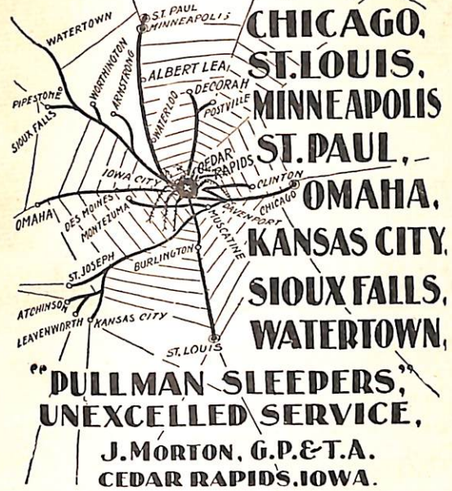

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